772-6668

Nuggets Of News

March, 2000

News, Photographs and Events of the Gold Hill Historical Society. Est. 1986
Meetings are held the third Wednesday each month at 6:30 PM at the Museum, 504 First Avenue, Gold Hill, Oregon
(except August when the annual potluck is held at noon on the Museum grounds on the Sunday following the third Wednesday)
Mailing address: Post Office Box 26, Gold Hill, Oregon 97525-0026 Telephone: (541) 855-1182
Museum Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, except holidays. Admission FREE, donations accepted

Winter Doldrums Over Soon

Our weather has been quite typical for the season, first tempting us with blue skies and temperatures giving question to the date on the calendar, then quickly reminding us that "Ole Man Winter" is still here, but hopefully not for too much longer. This month everyone's Irish, and then we get into that wonderful time of year. Daylight Saving Time, and Easter highlight April, while Mother's Day and Memorial Day are celebrated in May. All of this before the next newsletter is due so we have themes of your choice for this missive. Happy holidays to all! For all!!

Archeology

As announced in the December, 1999 newsletter your historical society hosted the slide show, "Archeology of the Upper Rogue," which was presented by the BLM on January 25th, at the Gold Hill Grange. Attendance was great with thirty-eight people signing our Guest Book. If you missed this very informative presentation, watch for announcements of future show time and location or call the following host historical society. Tentative sites and dates:

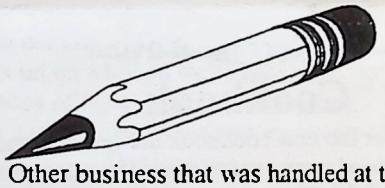
April--mid-May, Eagle Point--826-4166
mid-May--June, Big Butte--865-3310
July--mid-August, Woodville--582-3088
mid-August--September, Upper Rogue--878-4891
Archeology week & after, Southern Oregon Historical Society--773-6536

Elections

Election of officers for the next year took place at the February 16th meeting with the following results:

President: Lyn Parker
Vice-President: Marge Martin
Secretary: Gloria Wood
Treasurer: Clare Moore

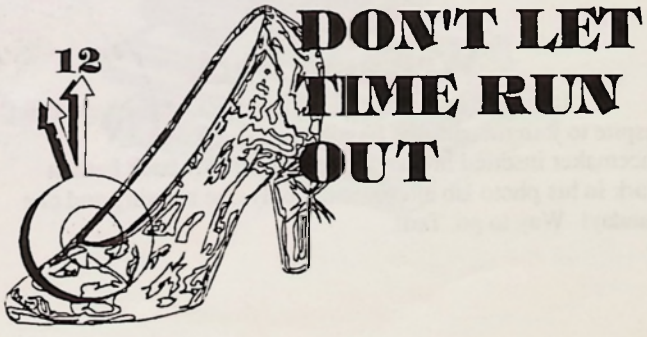
The Board of Directors includes all of the above officers plus:
Rex Parker, appointed by past President, Marge Martin
Ted Wharton, appointed by new President, Lyn Parker



Other business that was handled at the February meeting included approval of the revised by-laws. Revisions were necessary to reflect the change in dues structure and to clarify some of the language in the old document.

Raffle

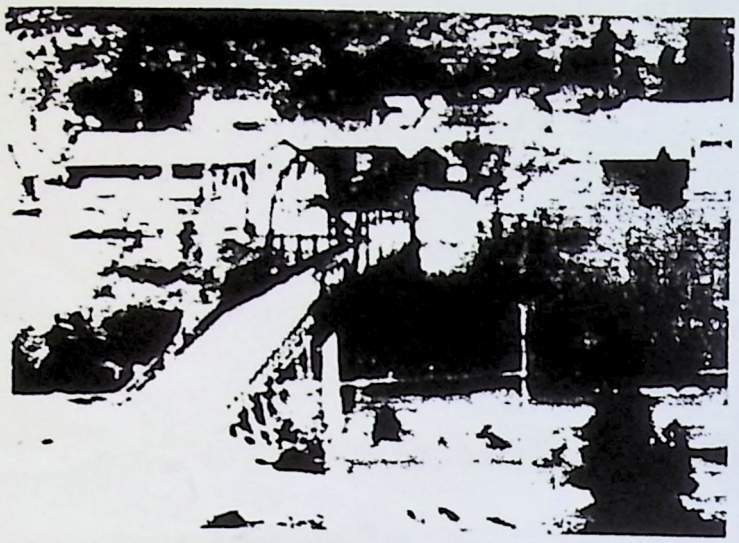
Raffle ticket sales are going rather slowly, but with the arrival of better weather and longer days, museum visitation should increase. The beautiful hand made afghan will be raffled off at our August potluck, and as the raffle time draws close, sales always seem to increase. Be sure you don't miss out on a chance for this lovely item.



News From The Past

March 28, 1914, Vol. 16 No. 47, Gold Hill News

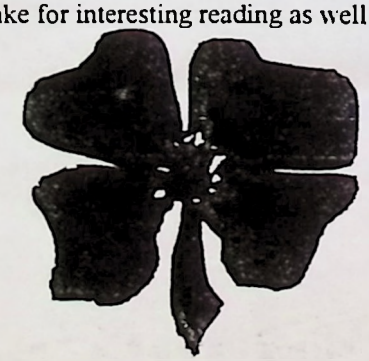
Faulty construction of the wagon bridge at Rogue River, or Woodville, installed only five years ago, has resulted



in the structure being condemned as endangered. An upper pier on the west side of the river was not foundationed upon bedrock, but upon loose material, which subsequently washed out. While the bridge is not exactly "tottering above the boiling tide". It will require a new foundation as soon as low water arrives. Meantime it is safe for all the ordinary purposes of travel and traffic. Yesterday and Earhardt, of Portland, were the contracting builders.

Cookbook

Recipes for the new cookbook are arriving each week, but we still need many, many more if we are going to make this a worthwhile effort. Please join all of us in the society by submitting some of your favorite recipes, including some you are particularly partial to from your mothers or grandmothers. Some of the history is always welcome too, and should make for interesting reading as well as eating.



Welcome Back

It's good to have Ted Wharton back after a very brief respite to join the ranks of bionic people. Ted had a pacemaker inserted in February and is already back hard at work in his photo lab after missing only one meeting and one Sunday! Way to go, Ted!

Southern Oregon Historical Society Display

On March 1st we removed our "Miner's Cabin" display from the SOHS window on Central Avenue. If you missed it while it was there, Joyce Wayland and Gloria Wood have set it up again on our enclosed "back porch" here at the museum, so be sure to look it over.

JCHMA Meetings

We continue to participate in the Jackson County History Museums Association. We are joined in this endeavor by twelve other regional museums plus Southern Oregon Historical Society. We all feel there is much more power in numbers and with budget constraints and threatened reductions, we must stand together to ensure our survival. Currently the JCHMA is meeting monthly to be sure everyone knows what is happening and to plan our strategies. Our members and friends can assist us by writing a letter to the Jackson County Budget Committee, with a copy to Sue Slack, % Jackson County Administrator's Office, Jackson County Courthouse, 10 S. Oakdale Ave., Medford, OR 97501.

On Thursday, April 27th at 12:45 PM there will be a budget hearing at the courthouse and any who can join us make a large appearance will help the cause.

WARNING! DANGER
In and Around Abandoned Mines

With spring and good weather approaching we thought it prudent to include the following article in this newsletter. Author unknown.

SHAFTS A fall down an abandoned mine shaft can be deadly. The ground around the openings is often loose and inside the shaft you can bounce off the walls on the way down. Frequently rocks and timbers knocked loose by a fall can hurt or even kill. Stay away from old shafts, they are sometimes ready to collapse and take you down. Many old mines have a shaft inside a tunnel, these can be especially dangerous as you often can't see them until its too late.

WATER is another hazard. Many times there will be standing pools of water inside tunnels which can conceal holes in the floor. You cannot tell how deep that water is by looking. Also there may be water at the bottom of a shaft so if a fall doesn't kill you, you could still drown.

LADDERS in old mines are not safe. The rungs may be missing or rotted. Ladders attached to the walls of a shaft can be very deadly as they may pull away.

BAD AIR contains poisonous gasses or not enough oxygen. gasses can collect in low areas or along the floor. When you walk you can stir up the mixture and create a mix lethal to you on your return trip out of the mine. It takes little effort to go down into a shaft but the effort to climb out can cause dizziness, followed by unconsciousness. In either case if the gas doesn't get you the fall it causes may.

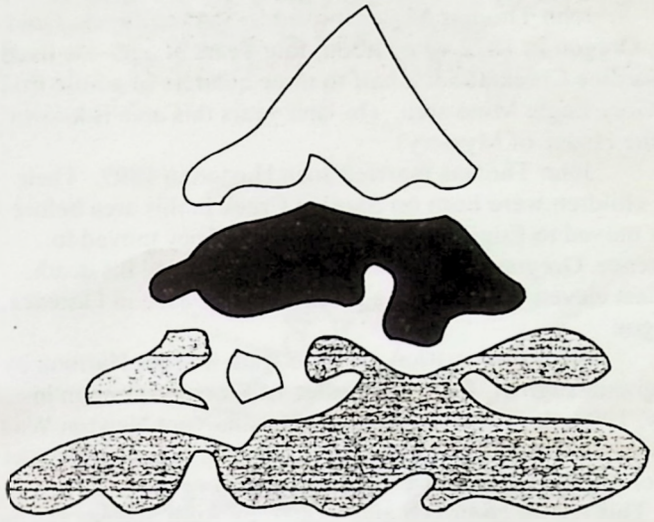
TIMBER in old mines can be weak from decay even when it looks like it is in good condition. Mines can look solid but falling timbers are a constant danger.

CAVE-INS are always a danger. In a cave-in the possibility of being crushed to death is only a little scarier than being TRAPPED.

EXPLOSIVES may have been left behind when the mine was abandoned. Never handle anything that looks suspicious. Even old pros are afraid of old explosives, old dynamite sticks and caps can explode if stepped on or even touched.

RATTLESNAKES may have made the old tunnels home, to cool off in summer, or maybe to hunt other animals. Remember any hole or ledge, especially near a mine shaft, could hide a snake, and even baby rattlers are poisonous.

FINALLY, don't try to rescue someone yourself, if you get hurt or stuck in the process then there will be two in danger and no one will know where to look for you.



Here's to Gold Hill

From Ernest Lyman's 1913 yearbook

Here's to our city of Gold,
Which is set on a hill so we're told,
As a beacon of light and a haven of peace;
May her age of prosperity never more cease
But increase.
Here's to our river, the Rogue,
Hunting and fishing at all times in vogue;
Here's to our beautiful valleys and mountains,
Fir covered hillsides, and crystal clear fountains,
Sunshine and rains!
Here's to our councils and laws,
Our mayors and courts without flaws
Here's to our High School, the track team and Beaver
May nothing its students and high purpose sever.
Upward strive ever.

--(BEAVER SOCIETY.)

Early Settlers

John Thomas (Tommie) Miller
Born July 26, 1868
Died November 4, 1935
Son of Benjamin F. and Margaret Miller

John Thomas Miller moved to Sardine Creek, Gold Hill, Oregon in 1872 when about four years of age. He lived on Sardine Creek about a half to three quarters of a mile from the Grey Eagle Mine area. (In later years this area is known for the House of Mystery).

John Thomas married Joan Huston in 1897. Their five children were born on Sardine Creek in this area before they moved to Eugene, Oregon in 1909. They moved to Florence, Oregon in 1910 where he resided until his death; the last eleven years being a Justice of the Peace in Florence, Oregon

(This information given to Ruth Starnes Harmon by his granddaughter, Phyllis Moullet, of Florence Oregon in May, 1990. Information from his cousin, Nora Newton Wait of Sardine Creek, Oregon in 1938: John Thomas Miller was editor of the Gold Hill News at one time.)

This record compiled and written by Ruth Starnes Harmon
Summer of 1990

Feeling Old?

From the Internet

Just in case you weren't feeling too old today, this will certainly change things. Each year the staff at Beloit College in Wisconsin puts together a list to try to give the faculty a sense of the mindset of that year's freshmen. Here's this year's list:

The people who started college last fall across the nation were born in 1982.

They have no meaningful recollection of the Reagan Era and probably did not know he had ever been shot.

They were prepubescent when the Persian Gulf War was waged.

Black Monday, 1987 is as significant to them as the Great Depression.

There has only been one Pope.

They have never feared a nuclear war.

They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up.

Tianamen Square means nothing to them.

Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic.

The expression "you sound like a broken record" means nothing to them.

They have never owned a record player.

They have likely never played Pac Man and have never heard of Pong.

They may have never heard of an 8 track. The Compact Disc was introduced when they were 1 year old.

As far as they know, stamps have always cost about 33 cents.

They have always had an answering machine.

Most have never seen a TV set with only 13 channels, nor have they seen a black-and-white TV.

They have always had cable.

There have always been VCRs, but they have no idea what BETA is.

They cannot fathom not having a remote control.

They were born the year that Walkman were introduced by Sony

Roller-skating has always meant inline for them.

Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show.

They have no idea when or why Jordache jeans were cool.

Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave.

They have never seen Larry Bird play.

They never took a swim and thought about "Jaws".

The Vietnam War is as ancient history to them as WWI, WWII and the Civil War.

They have no idea that Americans were ever held hostage in Iran.

They can't imagine what hard contact lenses are.

They don't know who Mork was or where he was from.

They never heard: "Where's the beef?", "I'd walk a mile for a Camel", or "de plane, de plane".

They do not care who shot J. R., and have no idea who J. R. is.

The Titanic was found? They thought we always knew where it was.

Michael Jackson has always been white.

There has always been MTV.

They don't have a clue how to use a typewriter.

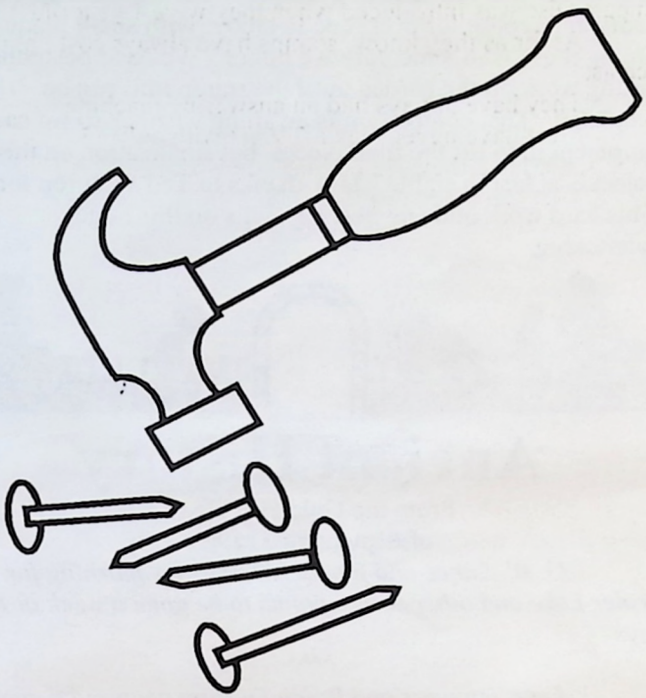
Do you feel old yet? Share this with other old folks like us.

And since we're relating Internet stories and I've done a good job of making all of us feel ancient, here's one which is particularly timely for this issue. This one is for each of you who may owe Uncle Sam something at the end of this year.

There was a man who, after computing his taxes for 1999, discovered that he still owed $3407. He packages up his payment and included this letter.

Dear Internal Revenue Service:

Enclosed is my 1999 tax return and payment. Please take note



of the attached article from USA Today newspaper. In the article you will see that the Pentagon is paying $171.50 for hammers and that NASA has paid $800.00 for a toilet seat.

Please find enclosed four toilets seats (value $2400.) and six hammers (value $1029.) This brings my total payment to $3429.00.

Please note the overpayment of $22.00 and apply it to the "Presidential Election Fund", as noted on my return. Might I suggest you send the above fund a 1.5 inch screw. (See attached article.... HUD paid $22.00 for a 1.5 inch Phillips head screw).

It has been a pleasure paying my tax bill this year, and I look forward to paying the bill again next year.

Sincerely,

A Satisfied Taxpayer

Past-President's Letter

Well, this is Goodbye again as president of Gold Hill Historical Society. We have a new president. "Welcome Lyn Parker". I know she will be great.

We are looking for a busy year again. We have a lot of work to do, but it is always fun when we all work together as a team. Hope you all have a great spring.

Marge

Curator's Report

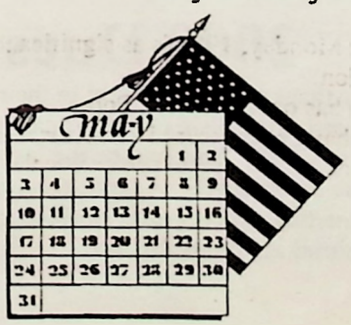
Today our society president and newsletter editor asked me to submit an article for this edition, a "Curator's Report", but darned if I could think of a thing to write. Then I remembered my almost daily trip into gold Hill, down Galls Creek Road, past memories of gold mines, apple orchards, hardy pioneers and Jacob Gall and his family, who settled here in 1852. Jacob Gall was killed by Indians in 1856. Then down Old Stage Road and across the bridge into Gold Hill, that is unless I had decided to go the other way and drive through Rock Point Pioneer Cemetery just to see how things look, and to reflect a little on those no longer with us.

All of them have added to Gold Hill history, just as all of us living here now will in our own way. We are making history going about our days, doing the best we know how and being everyday heroes. At the museum we also go about the day doing the best we know how and always trying to learn more and do better. To do this we need your help. Bring us your bits and pieces of Gold Hill history so we can share with other history makers.

If you have a little time to stop in to visit or to help out, we could use help keeping a scrapbook or Gold Hill news or building a computer file of our wonderful collection of photographs, and much more. Don't forget our slide show at the Gold Hill Grange hall on March 14th at 7:00 PM.

See you at the picture show!

Joyce Wayland



President's Message

Hello to all members and friends:

First I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard for the many past years to bring your historical society as far as we have come. While the dreams were big, I'm sure the founders never envisioned the great strides we have made in these past fourteen years. We have much to accomplish under my watch and I hope we will be able to continue to grow and serve our community. It's going to be busy, innovative times, learning to do more with the constant specter of reduced funding. I'm looking forward to a challenging and busy year and will appreciate all the help you can give me.

Sincerely,

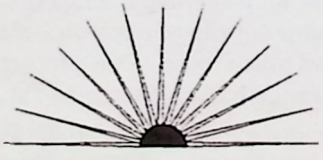
Lyn

Proposed Programs

Before the next newsletter, following are some of the programs that are "in the works":

- "Go for the Gold" exhibit opens at the museum
- "Gold Hill and Surrounding Area" slide show at the Gold Hill Grange, 7:00 PM, admission free.
- Regular meeting Wednesday, March 15th at 6:30 PM.
- Regular meeting Wednesday, April 19th at 6:30 PM
- Regular meeting Wednesday, May 17th at 6:30 PM
- Rock Point Cemetery booklet and cemetery tour May 27.
- Rock Point Pioneer Cemetery clean up May 20 and 27
- "A Time to Mourn" exhibit opens at museum
- Gold Dust Day Saturday, June 3. We'll have a booth and participate in the parade.

In addition to all of these, we have the normal, ongoing tasks and goals. The remainder of the stamp mill will be set up as soon as weather permits, and then we can really get to work on more of our outside displays. Routine maintenance continues inside with the constant need to provide safe, protective storage of our many artifacts.



2000 Dues

Many thanks to all who sent in their dues for 2000. Without this participation we could not carry on our mission as effectively as we do. This will be the last newsletter for those who have not renewed. As much as we'd like to continue our mailings to everyone, postage rates will not allow us to use our shrinking funds this way

Memorial Donations

For the past few years we have received memorial donations when a loved one who was partial to our cause died. This money has been earmarked to build a memorial garden in the front lawn at the museum. Hopefully it will be a spot of beauty and repose for everyone to enjoy, with small plaques naming those who's memory we honor. We have postponed starting work on the garden until the stamp mill can be completed. That completion is awaiting weather so we can get equipment in to lift the final pieces, but finalization on this project is at last in sight. Many thanks to Ted Wharton for all of his hard work and engineering skills on this huge undertaking.

Ancient History

From the Gold Hill News
of September 3, 1909

G. W. Lance and family left Tuesday morning for Crater Lake and other scenic points to be gone a week or ten days

^^^^

Luke Jennings and Ralph Darling captured a good sized buck on the Blackwell hills Wednesday. Several deer have been killed in and about Gold Hill lately and the hunting seems to be as good about home as anywhere else. Chas. Kell was one of a party who brought in a fine five point buck from Rock Point Wednesday.

^^^^

Superintendent Dawson of the Braden mine says things are looking good out his way although it is hard to get any information that tends toward a rumored boom. He expects to have the mill running by the first of October.

^^^^

When it was found that a stolen automobile belonging to W. I. Vayler's had been found in the Siskiyous a party composed of four members, heavily armed, went after the machine and had no trouble in bringing it back.

^^^^

Remember Our Country's Heroes on MEMORIAL DAY

Some Apply, Some Don't
(But We Can All Relate)

More from the Internet---

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference. Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered:

1. I started out with nothing and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
3. I finally got my head together, now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded.
5. All reports are in; life is now officially unfair.
6. If all is not lost, where is it?
7. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
8. Some days you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant.
9. I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few...;
10. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
11. Accidents in the back seat cause kids....
12. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
13. Only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.
14. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.
15. When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone decide to play chess?
16. It's not hard to meet expenses...they're everywhere.
17. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
18. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter....I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm here after.

GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL/VOLUNTEER FORM

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

☐ *Family Membership $6.00 per year*
New or renewal

☐ *Contribution*

☐ *Yes, I would like to volunteer*

Return form to:

Gold Hill Historical Society
504 First Avenue
Post Office Box 26
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525-0026

Board of Directors

Lyn Parker, President

Marge Martin, Vice President

Gloria Wood, Secretary

Clare Moore, Treasurer

Ted Wharton

Rex Parker

###

Museum Curator: Joyce Wayland

Our Purpose and Goals

The Gold Hill Historical Society's Purpose and Goals are to collect, document and preserve the history of the Gold Hill area through:

Oral Histories
Photographs
Artifacts
Books

Gold Hill Historical Society
504 First Avenue
Post Office Box 26
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525-0026

Eagle Point Historical Society
PO Box 201
Eagle Point, OR. 97524